

ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

2 A multipoint controller unit in which the audio signal processing is
3 distributed among several audio ports. The control of the audio signal
4 processing may be centrally or distributively managed by one or more audio
5 controllers. The audio signal processing may include selecting audio streams
6 from a common interface and/or mixing the signals from the common interface.
7 Each audio port may enhance the audio signal and generate control information
8 from the audio signal. The audio ports are synchronized by a common
9 information channel while the audio controllers are synchronized by a common
10 control channel interface. Port fragmentation is reduced since the audio signal
11 processing that relates to an endpoint within a conference is handled by a single
12 audio port.